

LOUISIANA ARCHIVES & MANUSCRIPTS ASSOCIATION

LAMA NEWSLETTER

ARCHIVES NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

FALL/WINTER 2012

MCNEESE TO HOST LAMA ANNUAL MEETING



The Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association is busy planning for the annual meeting on November 2, 2012 in Lake Charles. The meeting will take place at the Stream Memorial Alumni Center of McNeese State University and will focus on disaster preparedness. Students from LSU's School of Library and Information Science will report on their survey of Louisiana archivists to determine what changes the 2005 disasters inspired in their operations and planning. Yvonne Loiselle will report on the recent Lyrasis workshops on disaster planning and creating a Regional Emergency Response Network (RERN). After her report, other attendees of the workshops will give their input and discuss ideas for future collaboration. Beth Antoine of the New Orleans Book & Paper Lab will discuss the history and operations of the American Institute for Conservation Collections Emergency Response Team (AIC-CERT). Greg Lambousy, Director of Collections at the Louisiana State Museum will report on the 2011 flooding of the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers which affected museum operations in Patterson.

For late registration, please email pthreatt@mcneese.edu to reserve a place at the meeting. Please visit <http://louisianaarchivists.org/meeting.html> for a tentative schedule and registration information. And don't forget to check out the Southwest Louisiana Convention and Visitors Bureau [www.visitlakecharles.org] for information about all the fun activities Southwest Louisiana has to offer.

Pati Threatt

Tentative Schedule

8:30-9:00—*Registration*: Coffee and muffins

9:00-9:30 — *Opening Remarks*: Pati Threatt, Archivist and Special Collections Librarian, Frazar Memorial Library, McNeese State University; *Southwest Louisiana welcome*: Dr. Keegan LeJeune, Folklore Professor, McNeese State University.

9:30-10:15 — *Disaster Planning Updates*: Three archives students from LSU's School of Library and Information Science surveyed Louisiana archivists to find what changes the 2005 disasters inspired in their operations and planning.

10:15-10:30 — *Break*

10:30-11:30 — *Regional Emergency Response Network (RERN)*: Yvonne Loiselle, New Orleans Public Library, reports on the recent Lyrasis workshops on disaster planning and creating an RERN. After the report, other attendees of the workshops will have an opportunity to share their experiences.

11:30-1:00—*Sandwich and Salad Lunch*

1:00-2:00 — *The History and Operations of AIC-CERT*: Beth Antoine, New Orleans Book & Paper Lab. *The 2011 Flood*: Greg Lambousy, Director of Collections, Louisiana State Museum, will report on the flooding of the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers which affected museum operations in Patterson.

2:00-2:30 — *The Archival Training Cooperative (ATC)*: Sally Sinor gives an update on the ATC.

2:30-2:45 — *Break*

2:45-4:00 — *Business Meeting*: Howard Margot, President of LAMA, presiding.



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LSU Libraries Use YouTube to Promote Special Collections



Many special collections libraries are now using YouTube to promote their holdings and services. Whether for general introductions to the library, behind-the-scenes tours, curator interviews, or demonstrations of how to properly handle rare books and manuscripts, YouTube is another useful tool in the outreach librarian's tool belt.

LSU's Special Collections division began producing YouTube videos in spring 2012 when Casey Davis, a SLIS graduate student, expressed an interest in exploring new outreach strategies as part of her semester-long field experience in Special Collections. Davis investigated different software available in LSU's Faculty Technology Center. In the end, she and Michael Taylor, assistant curator of rare books, decided that Adobe Premiere Pro, despite a higher learning curve than programs such as Camtasia, created the best videos. To date, The Libraries has used YouTube to advertise several main gallery and "mini" exhibitions, as well as our annual Audubon Day. Additionally, the new channel includes a tour and history of Hill Memorial Library, plus two interviews with the library's curators that originally aired on CSPAN's Book TV in 2011.

The video creation process begins with writing a script, which is then recorded in the oral history studio using a high-quality microphone. Next, the sound file is edited in Audacity, a free software program, and combined with background music. To ensure an even sound quality, the narrator is asked to go back to the beginning of a paragraph, rather than the beginning of the script, when he or she makes a mistake. The error is then cut out in Audacity. Using this software, it is also very easy to splice audio segments, as was done for an exhibit video in which different narrators read quotes from books and letters on display.

The next step is to gather digital images. (The first video combined still photographs with moving video shot on a camcorder. The moving video, however, wobbled slightly, so in subsequent videos, still shots were used, but utilized Adobe Premiere Pro's sophisticated panning and zoom features to create motion.) The images and sound file are then imported into Premiere Pro and synchronized. It is at this stage that captions identifying the materials being shown can be added. Although LSU Libraries has not done so in its videos, some libraries provide closed-captioning, making it possible for the video to be viewed in a quiet reading room without headphones.

LSU's strategy for letting people know about the videos continues to evolve. At first, they were submitted to the University's YouTube channel. This ensured a large audience, but also meant that the Libraries was unable to upload and administer the videos, resulting in a delay in their being posted and having to ask someone in LSU's Office of Communications and University Relations to add titles, descriptions, and tags. The Libraries now has its own channel, which not only gives administrative privileges, but also allows access the detailed statistics that YouTube provides about viewer demographics, playback location, and audience retention. One disadvantage of having a separate channel, however, is that the Libraries can no longer "piggyback" on the LSU channel, with its thousands of subscribers, to reach an audience. It has been suggested that this problem can be overcome by having the administrator of the LSU channel "like" the videos, causing them show up in the LSU channel's feed and be seen by its subscribers. The LSU Libraries' Facebook page and digital message boards in Middleton Library are other outreach tools used to publicize the videos.

"Combining the music, images, and words allows you to create a mood and make whatever you are promoting seem more alive and interactive," said Tara Laver, Interim Head of Special Collections. "The videos provide one more avenue for us to get the word out about our collections and programs, and by putting these up on YouTube and Facebook, it helps us 'fish where the fish are.'"

"You Tube" continued on page 3

Le Comité des Archives de la Louisiane Holds Annual Meeting

Le Comité des Archives de la Louisiane held its Annual Meeting on Sept. 30th at the Embassy Suites in Baton Rouge. Aaron Holt of the National Archives Southwest Region branch was on hand to talk about the genealogical resources at the Fort Worth facility.

In April, the organization added a Document of the Month feature to its website (<http://www.lecomite.org>). The first image was a 1912 Governor's Proclamation commemorating the Centennial celebration of Louisiana Statehood. Inspired by the National Archives' Archives' *Today's Document* feature (<http://www.archives.gov/historical-docs/todays-doc>), Le Comité's *Document of the Month* highlights documents, photographs, maps, and other images from the holdings of the Louisiana State Archives.

Le Comité will hold an "Ask the Expert" program in the Research Room at the State Archives on January 5th. Members seeking help on their genealogical research questions will be able to reserve a time slot to consult with one of the group's experts.

Officers elected to serve in the 2013 term are: President, Damon Veach; First Vice President, Louis Altazan; Third Vice President, Cherryl Forbes Montgomery; Secretary, Doris Falkenhiner; and Treasurer, Judy Riffel

Judy Riffel



Aaron Holt reviews the basics of the National Archives Southwest Branch in Fort Worth, Texas, at Le Comité des Archives de la Louisiane's Annual Meeting. Photo courtesy of Judy Riffel

"You Tube" continued from page 2

Projects "on the burner" include chats with staff members about favorite items and collections, similar to those done last year by Book TV. The Libraries also plan to experiment with making staff and student-training videos for viewing in-house. These would make it possible to visually demonstrate, for example, how to troubleshoot the microfilm scanner or lock up the building, rather than describing it in a long and tedious procedures manual. A picture, as they say, is worth a thousand words.

To visit the LSU Libraries' new YouTube channel, go to:
<http://www.youtube.com/user/LSULibraries>

Michael Taylor

State Archives to Host Events for Archives Month

October is Archives Month and the Louisiana State Archives is hosting several events that will be open to the public.

Saturday, October 13, 12:30 PM: Award-winning chef Marcelle Bienvenu will give a presentation on Louisiana's Creole cuisine in the Archives Auditorium.

Saturday, October 20, 11:00 AM-4:00 PM: Book Fair at Barnes and Noble, 2590 Citiplace Court, Baton Rouge. Former LSU football coach Paul Dietzel will make an appearance at 11:00 AM.

Tuesday, October 23, 2:00 PM: Dr. Gaines Foster, dean of the LSU College of Humanities & Social Sciences, will speak on "Remembering the Civil War: Complexities and Ambiguities" in the Archives Gallery.

Thursday, October 25, 9:30 AM: Café au lait and beignets breakfast in the Research Library. Please call 225-922-1200 by October 19 to RSVP for this event.

Tuesday, October 30, 1:30 PM: Basics of Archival Preservation and Genealogical Research presented by Archives staff in the Archives Gallery.

Florent Hardy

THNOC Adds 1926 Surrey Calendar



Le Commerce que les Indiens du Mexique Font avec les François au Port de Missisipi

ca. 1720. Courtesy of: The Historic New Orleans Collection (1952.3)

In January of this year, **The Historic New Orleans Collection (THNOC)**, in cooperation with the **University of Louisiana-Lafayette (ULL)** and the **École nationale des chartes (ENC)** in Paris added a new online research database to its website, “A Guide to French Louisiana Manuscripts: An expanded and revised edition of the 1926 Surrey Calendar with appendices” (http://www.hnoc.org/surrey/index.php?page=project_presentation). The original, two-volume guide, *Calendar of Manuscripts in Paris Archives and Libraries Relating to the History of the Mississippi Valley to 1803* (Carnegie Institution of Washington, Department of Historical Research, Washington, 1926) was edited by Nancy Miller Surrey under the auspices of the Carnegie and the direction of Waldo Gifford Leland. Leland, along with American Historical Association president John Franklin Jameson, had compiled most of the material in Paris between 1907 and 1914, when the outbreak of war forced their return to the U.S. Their goal, as the guide’s original title indicates, had been to locate and (briefly) describe every document housed in Paris archives and libraries pertaining to French Colonial Louisiana (i.e., the Mississippi Valley).

Leland hired Canadian Public Archives director of manuscripts David Parker to review and organize the thousands of pages of material collected, but when, in 1922, Parker left for France for five years to continue and complete the research, the unenviable job of editing the enormous compilation – 22,589 documents would ultimately be cited – was given to Nancy Surrey, Leland’s protégée and assistant during his time in Paris. The citations were arranged chronologically and published in two large volumes.

Throughout the 20th century, the “Surrey Calendar” would serve as the standard reference work for research on French colonial Louisiana; many American institutions used its citations to build their microfilm collections. Still, the Calendar suffered from two important shortcomings: first, it was published in very limited editions, so few institutions actually had copies of it; second, the calendar covered only Parisian repositories, ignoring the wealth of material in local and departmental archives which began to be ferreted out and cited by an assortment of French and American researchers in the 1970s and 1980s. Clearly, the Surrey Calendar needed to be updated, and to be made more accessible.

Because of Hurricane Katrina, Alfred Lemmon of THNOC and Carl Brasseaux of ULL, two researchers who were keenly aware of these needs, ran into each other in Lafayette in September 2005. They discussed the feasibility of such a project and decided to make a go of it: THNOC would provide the funding and framework; their partner in France, Gilles-Antoine Langlois of the University of Paris Est Créteil, would direct students from the ENC to update the locations of documents in Paris repositories and identify new ones in departmental archives; Carl Brasseaux’ students would assemble the data into a searchable database.

Finally, in the spring of 2011, the proprietary database that had been created at ULL was transformed into an open-source (MySQL/PHP) database by ENC student intern Pauline Charbonnier, working under the direction of the author. The new database, which allowed for much faster and easier searches on the Web, continued to be updated with Professor Langlois’s additional citations (some 6,000), and supplemented with many “useful links;” by January 2012 it was ready to be launched online. On behalf of everyone involved in the project, we invite you to use this free, public database to assist your own research communities, and to give us any and all feedback that you might deem helpful.

Howard Margot

New Exhibit Chronicles Tulane Stadium History



Football players on the field of the second stadium site, ca. 1914.

In December 2011, Tulane University announced its intention to build a new football stadium on campus, and interest in the old Tulane stadium blossomed. Many people remember the imposing 80,000-seat Tulane Stadium (also called Sugar Bowl Stadium, demolished in 1980) which hosted not only Tulane football games but also Sugar Bowl, Super Bowl, and New Orleans Saints football games; very few people know that there had been two stadiums on campus preceding it.

The heightened interest in Tulane's athletic facilities inspired the University Archives staff to mount an exhibit celebrating the former Tulane football stadiums. *Ghostly Gridirons: Tulane Football Stadiums, 1909-1980*, is a multimedia exhibit which presents the history of the stadiums through an array of archival holdings -- photographs, documents, artifacts, items used in former exhibits, newspaper articles, and publicity ephemera. The displays illustrate the diversity of both athletic and non-athletic activities held within the arenas throughout the years. Other cases highlight football festivities and the game day experience, Tulane's traveling Bowl teams, Sugar Bowls, the Saints, and Super Bowls. Short video clips broadcast snippets of Tulane football games, Sugar Bowl action, Saints highlights and Super Bowl games, all of which occurred in the old Tulane Stadium. An eight-page booklet of Tulane stadium history also serves as a guide to the exhibit.

The first stadium, enclosed by a 10,000-seat wooden grandstand, was actually built in 1909 to host a sacred concert being staged in honor of President Howard Taft on the occasion of his visit to the Waterways Convention in New Orleans. Named "Taft Field" by the students, it held only a single sea-

son of football games before the grandstand was relocated across the street in order to host the Amateur Athletic Union's National Track and Field Championships of 1910. This second sports arena, called Tulane Stadium, consisted of a cinder track, jumping and vaulting pits for field events, a football field and a baseball diamond. As football became more widely popular, a 30-tier concrete grandstand was added in 1917 and a cypress grandstand was erected in 1921. Following the 1925 season, in which the Green Wave went undefeated (and then perplexingly declined an invitation to play in the Rose Bowl), a larger stadium was deemed necessary. The last Tulane Stadium, which held 35,000 in its original configuration, was inaugurated in 1926. Almost fifty years and several expansions later, the stadium was made obsolete by the Superdome; both Tulane and the Saints moved their home games to the 'Dome in 1975.

The exhibit will run from Oct. 30th through the end of the year. It is located in the Special Collections Gallery on the second floor of Jones Hall, and is open 9-5 M-F, and 9-1 Sat (except holiday weekends). Please feel free to contact the University Archives for further information (504-314-7821).

Ann E. Smith Case

THNOC Gives New Life to a Much-Used Resource

The Vieux Carré Survey, 130 large binders containing the chain of title, images, maps, charts, historical building survey data and more on the properties bounded by Canal Street, Rampart Street, Esplanade Avenue and the Mississippi River, is one of the most used resources among the holdings of The Historic New Orleans Collection. The Survey is a great resource, but limited in the fact that all the information is only accessible through a property's address.

Its high usage and fragile paper-based nature made the Survey a great candidate for digitization. Digitization would increase accessibility to the vast amounts of information that its paper-based structure made difficult to access. With the goal of preserving the Survey and increasing access, THNOC's Systems Department conducted an extensive analysis of the Vieux Carré Survey in 2000 to determine how best to digitize it. A Microsoft Access Database was designed by Charles Patch, former Director of Systems, to hold the data and begin the transformation from three-ring binders to a digital object.

The conversion was a time-and-labor intensive process and the Collins C. Diboll Private Foundation stepped up to assist with the financial challenges faced in undertaking the project. The chains of title contained within the Survey had to be entered manually into the database. A total of 53,794 property transactions were entered into the database to recreate the nearly 3,400 chains of title. Approximately 10,000 photographs, diagrams and documents were scanned and linked

to property records to complete the transformation of the existing Survey.

The digital version of the survey does not simply replicate the original; it expands upon it. In 2010 The Collection hired photographer John Watson Riley to photograph every property in the Vieux Carré. Several maps and plans of the French Quarter were added. Chains of title which had stopped circa 1980 are being updated to the present day. As new data and illustrations become available the digital survey is capable of expanding to embrace them.

Digitizing the survey greatly enhanced its search ability. Not only can one search by location but now, one can search by property owner, architectural rating, building material, free person of color status, and ---in limited cases--- by sale price. The database also allows for key-word searches; queries can be made on building names and business types for example. The presentation of the data retains the importance of the physical location by providing contextual information on the hundred block and on the city square in which the property is located. The Vieux Carré Survey has taken on new life as the Collins C. Diboll Vieux Carré Digital Survey, accessible via the internet at www.hnoc.org/vcs.

Carol Bartels

AVES Exhibition on Neotropical Ornithology Available Online

Tales of discovery, along with the exquisite art produced to disseminate information about the natural world, are now available online in the exhibition *AVES: A Survey of the Literature of Neotropical Ornithology*. Viewers may access biographies of scientists and explorers, and four centuries of bird illustrations through the following address: <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/special/aves>.

The online exhibition was adapted from an exhibition and accompanying catalogue of the same title, which was written by antiquarian book dealer Tom Taylor, with contributions by Michael L. Taylor, Assistant Curator of Books at LSU Libraries Special Collections, and published by LSU Libraries in 2011. All text on the online exhibition reflects text printed in the catalogue. The physical exhibit hung May 23 to September 12, 2011.

The exhibit focuses on telling the "untold" stories of scientific explorers who discovered and named thousands of new bird species in Mexico, the Caribbean, and South and Central

America, and shared their findings in the beautifully illustrated and important books featured.

The online presentation includes engaging and colorful images of birds and their habitats, taken from the books, interpretive text for each of the works, and brief biographies of more than forty naturalists and bird collectors, ranging from giants such as Charles Darwin and Alexander von Humboldt to virtually unknown figures like Emilie Snethlage, one of the first women to pursue ornithology as a profession.

Most materials featured in the exhibition are housed in the E. A. McIlhenny Natural History Collection in LSU Libraries Special Collections at Hill Memorial Library. The original 2011 exhibition installation and catalogue were funded with a generous grant by the Coypu Foundation.

LSU Libraries Special Collections uses WordPress to translate selected physical exhibitions into online versions.

Leah Wood Jewett

News from North Louisiana

It has been a busy year for archivists in north Louisiana. Thanks to a generous grant from the Louisiana Board of Regents, LSUS Archives & Special Collections is embarking on an ambitious but exciting new project: *The Handbook of North Louisiana Online*. Modeled after *The Handbook of Texas Online* and powered by Drupal, *The Handbook of North Louisiana Online* will provide a full-text searchable encyclopedia of north Louisiana history and culture. North Louisiana, for the purpose of *The Handbook of North Louisiana*, will be construed as including Caddo, Bossier, Webster, Claiborne, Lincoln, Union, Morehouse, West Carroll, East Carroll, Desoto, Red River, Bienville, Jackson, Ouachita, Richland, Madison, Tensas, Franklin, Caldwell, Winn, Natchitoches, Sabine, Grant, LaSalle, Catahoula, Concordia, Avoyelles, Rapides, and Vernon parishes. Entry types will include individuals, organizations, events/movements, places, geographical descriptions (forests, streams, bodies of water, etc.), and things both tangible and intangible (like crawfish and folk music). Anyone wishing to contribute an article may consult the guidelines posted at www.nwla-archives.org, or contact Laura.McLemore@lsus.edu for a copy of the guidelines. The editorial board is comprised of faculty members from Louisiana Tech, Centenary College, LSU-Shreveport, and NSULA. The editors hope to attract articles from researchers in our respective archives and from outstanding students in all four institutions, but all contributors are eagerly encouraged and welcomed.

In conjunction with *The Handbook of North Louisiana Online*, LSUS Archives is purchasing a large-format planetary scanner, which will be installed, tentatively, the second week in November. The Indus XL7000 PlanScan will be enable users to scan large format documents, open books, bound and unbound newspapers, architectural and engineering drawings, manuscripts and maps that can be as large as 36 inches x 52 inches in color, grayscale or black & white at 600 dpi. The scanner will be made available for projects from other institutions for a fee (TBA).

The Connecting to Collections Planning Grant, funded by IMLS, has been completed. Based on information gained through the grant activities, several workshops have been proposed and are in development, including preservation of born digital records and collections inventory and assessment. Among the permanent benefits of the C2C grant are environmental monitors and dataloggers that institutions may borrow for up to three months. At LSUS, the dataloggers have been in use for a little more than a year and have proved especially valuable in explaining visually to facilities services personnel issues related to temperature and relativity in the archives. Any institution wanting to take advantage of the loan program may contact Bruce Turner <bturner@louisiana.edu> at ULL or Laura McLemore <laura.mclemore@lsus.edu> at LSUS.

Laura McLemore

Wiles, Altman Establish Archival Political Advocacy Wiki

While attending the Archives Leadership Institute in Madison Wisconsin this summer, Brad Wiles, former LAMA president, and Burton Altman decided to establish The Political Archivist wiki. Wiles is now university archivist and special collections manager at American Public University System and Altman is university archivist/librarian at Florida State University.

The incidents in the last few months at the Georgia State Archives and Library and Archives Canada led Wiles and Altman to determine that direct political advocacy needs to become a core responsibility and competency of archivists. They believe these instances demonstrate that it is no longer viable for archivists to consider themselves above the political fray nor is it satisfactory to exist as passive observers who only react in the face of crisis. There are number of ways people can get involved through organizations like SAA and those should be explored thoroughly. However, any coordinated effort at the national or international level is only going to be effective if individuals feel obliged to get involved and have the tools to

do so. To aid this process, Wiles and Altman have created The Political Archivist Wiki and would like to invite submissions from archivists and non-archivists alike on how to do advocacy. From the website:

The wiki is a non-affiliated resource and open forum on how archivists might conduct political advocacy - tips, advice, best practices, and examples drawn from the experience of other archivists, librarians, and professionals working in the cross-section of information, culture, and education. All individuals or organizations with a compelling interest in political advocacy related to archives are welcome to contribute to and edit the wiki – it is free, open, and completely voluntary.

Check it out at:

<http://thepoliticalarchivist.wikispaces.com/>

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“Wiki” continued on page 8

THNOC, the LPO, and Education

For the past six years The Historic New Orleans Collection and The Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra have partnered on a two-part project including a concert and educational DVD complete with a teacher's guide. Each January the project begins anew with a free concert on a historic theme held in the Saint Louis Cathedral. The programs for these concerts are developed through the joint partnership of The Historic New Orleans Collection and The Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra and are designed to expand upon the rich musical heritage of New Orleans and Louisiana. These events double (in addition to a world class musical performance) as musical, cultural and history lessons. Past programs have explored themes such as German music in New Orleans, Afro-Creole musicians and the idea of Becoming American. The second portion of the project begins each year during the concert itself. While the LPO and a narrator perform and comment on that year's theme, which, to be clear, is an event in and of itself, members of the DVD creation team work to record the raw footage that will become a portion of the educational package. Additionally, for the first time this past winter, the LPO was able to stream the concert live to Louisiana college campuses due to a generous grant awarded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Viewers across the United States were able to watch the performance via the LPO website.

With concert footage in hand, the DVD team works to craft a video designed to elaborate on the historic themes presented in the concert to a new target audience - fourth and eighth grade (the years in which Louisiana History is taught) students. The past two years, in order to help impart the message, elementary age students have volunteered to play the key role of narrators, and have done a tremendous job in this capacity. This year's final product for the "Becoming American" educational

DVD includes vignettes of these same students explaining Louisiana History, portions of the concert itself, archival images and sound presented in documentary style and comic and illustrative animations. In addition, student interviews of Conductor Carlos Miguel Prieto, Principal French Horn Mollie Pate and LPO Librarian Crozet Duplantier offer insights into both the music and what it means to be a professional musician.

To compliment the educational DVD, two teachers guides - one designed for fourth grade teachers, and the other for eighth grade teachers - are created. These guides offer additional lessons and insights on the theme, explanations of the composers, the music, the instruments (this year's guide, for example, includes a short history of the French Horn that works well in conjunction with Mollie Pate's interview) and the history explored in the program and DVD. Once complete, the guides and educational DVDs are shipped to elementary schools across the state.

With the concert, educational DVD and teachers guides for "Becoming American: The Musical Journey" now complete and in use in classrooms across Louisiana, The Historic New Orleans Collection and The Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra have begun work on next year's program. The theme for the 2013 concert to be held again in the St. Louis Cathedral on Wednesday, January 23rd will be "Envisioning America," and, as in years past, THNOC and the LPO will use music to explore and impart the rich history of New Orleans and Louisiana to concert goers, online streamers and elementary school students alike.

Eric Seiferth

"Wiki" continued from page 7

It requires no registration and content of all types is welcomed. The idea is to inspire advocacy and activism by letting each other know what can be done, what has been done, and what should be done. Those who have something to share are encouraged to do so. The wiki is also for those who are on the fence about getting involved and looking for something they can use - stories, strategies, or some other piece of information that allows them to put some skin in the game

Presently a list of general topics has been included (on the left hand column) but these are primarily suggestions and can be modified. There are a few rules to ensure civil participa-

tion, but outside of these post, observe, and interact to your heart's content. We hope to see you in the fray...

Brad Wiles and Burton Altman
The Political Archivist Wiki
politicalarchivist@gmail.com

Exhibit Commemorating the Civil War on Display at Hill



Battle of Baton Rouge fought on the 5th of August 1862, n.d. Mss. 4873, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries.

This hand-colored, hand-drawn, map on linen depicts the battle area comprising downtown Baton Rouge and the countryside nearby.



Randall Lee Gibson, c. 1861., Andrew D. Lytle Collection, Mss. 893, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries.

Randall Lee Gibson, Confederate States Army general and New Orleans lawyer, later became a United States representative and senator from Louisiana.

In commemoration of the ongoing sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, and in particular the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Baton Rouge on August 5, LSU Libraries Special Collections presents the exhibition “Old Times Here Are Not Forgotten: Remembering the Civil War,” on display in Hill Memorial Library July 30 – November 10. The exhibition is free and open to the public.

Speaking to the Women’s Loyal League in New York City in 1865, Frederick Douglass asserted that a “battle lost or won is easily described, understood, and appreciated, but the moral growth of a great nation requires reflection, as well as observation, to appreciate it.” Including a variety of unique Civil War materials from the holdings of Special Collections, “Old Times” offers visitors an opportunity for such reflection.

Contemporary letters and diaries tell the harrowing stories of both civilians and soldiers who experienced the war in and around Baton Rouge. A large watercolor map of the Battle of Baton Rouge identifies the important buildings in town, as well as the positions of combatants and “property burnt for the defenses,” while contemporary military reports and hand-drawn sketches offer more details. Photographs taken by Andrew Lytle show a ravaged Baton Rouge occupied by Federal troops.

Works printed in the Confederacy during the war offer testimony to the daunting economic and organizational challenges the would-be nation faced and to the high price its citizens paid, both in lives and livelihoods. The war inspired a flurry of musical composition in the South, where patriotic songs were used to boost morale on both the home front and on the battlefield. Examples ranging from the “Dixie War Song” to “The Southern Marseillaise” published by A. E. Blackmar are on display.

A war not forgotten, the Civil War’s long-lasting impact on our nation and the strength of the LSU Libraries Special Collections is reflected in an array of modern scholarly works based on research conducted using Special Collections resources. In addition selected books from the Michael Lehman Williamson Collection of Civil War Books for Young People will be on display in the second floor gallery under the title “Blue and Gray for Boys and Girls.”

In addition to this exhibition, LSU Libraries Special Collections has participated in several major commemorative projects related to the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War. Special Collections digitized numerous manuscript and print resources, contributing significantly to the “Civil War in the American South,” a sesquicentennial project of the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries. The materials are accessible at <http://american-south.org/institutions/luu> or via the Louisiana Digital Library at <http://tinyurl.com/LSULibSCCivilWar>. Last year, the LSU Libraries presented the exhibition “The Dear Ones at Home: Women’s Letters and Diaries of the Civil War Era” to mark the anniversary of the start of the Civil War. Information on the exhibition and featured materials is available at <http://hill.blogs.lib.lsu.edu/2010/12/the-dear-ones-at-home>.

Hill Memorial Library is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. When classes are in session, the library is open Tuesday evenings until 8 p.m. Paid parking is available at the Visitors’ Center, Memorial Tower and Mike the Tiger’s Habitat. For more information, visit the LSU Libraries Special Collections website at www.lib.lsu.edu/special.

Contact information: Leah Wood Jewett, Exhibitions Coordinator, lwood@lsu.edu
(225) 578-6558

Leah Wood Jewett



Louisiana

Archives & Manuscripts Association

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LAMA MISSION AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association (LAMA) promotes the role of archives in the preservation of our national, state, and local heritage by cooperating with Louisiana's public and private archival repositories in their work of collecting, conserving, and making accessible to the public manuscript, printed, graphic arts, and audio materials of historical significance.

At this point there are 88 individuals or organizations which have paid 2012 membership dues.

Approximately 25% of LAMA members are connected to academic repositories and 11% to religious archives. 12% are students. A little less than 10% work in museums (most of these at the Louisiana State Museum) and for government (most of these at the Louisiana State Archives.)

Once again I will complain that we have no members who work in Clerk-of-Court offices at the parish level.

Approximately 48% of members are from the New Orleans region and (32%) from the Baton Rouge area. 6 members are from north and central Louisiana, 5 from Acadiana, and 2 from the Lafourche region. We have no members from Texas this year but one from California and one from the England.

In the near future I will be sending out reminders to previous members who have not renewed. I expect that this will result in additional paid memberships for the year.

If you have not paid your LAMA dues for 2012, please consider doing so. Also encourage those in your area who work with historical records to join the organization if they are not members. Membership forms are available in this newsletter and on the LA-MA website.

Bruce Turner, LAMA Treasurer

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